

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

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TAGS: EGEN, NI

SUBJECT: LAGOS OAU CONFERENCE ON RELATIONS WITH EEC

REF: LAGOS 5562 (NOTAL); LAGOS 5584 (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: MAIN ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF OAU CONFERENCE ON RELATIONS WITH EEC APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN MAINTENANCE OF APPEARANCE, IF NOT REALITY, OF UNITED AFRICAN APPROACH TO NEGOTIATIONS AND ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW INSTITUTIONAL AND PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENTS TO PREPARE AND CONDUCT NEGOTIATIONS AND PRESUMABLY SUPPORT EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE UNIFIED POSITION. HOWEVER, CONFERENCE AVOIDED PUBLIC STATEMENTS COMMITTING ALL OAU MEMBERS TO ESCHEW REVERSE PREFERENCES. END SUMMARY.

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2. THIS REPORT BASED ON SELECTION OF CONFERENCE WORKING

DOCUMENTS, PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF CONFERENCE PRINCIPALS, AND PRESS AND DIPLOMATIC SOURCES. WE PLAN TALKS WITH NIGERIAN CONFERENCE ATTENDEES WHEN THEY ARE FREE OF PREOCCUPATION WITH CONFERENCE WORKLOAD.

3. WORKING PAPERS (POUCHED SEPARATELY) CONFIRM CONFERENCE APPROACH TO EEC NEGOTIATIONS WAS BASED ON "FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES" AGREED UPON AT TENTH OAU CHIEFS OF STATE MEETING IN ADDIS IN MAY. THESE PRINCIPLES EMBODIED EKANGAKI'S TEN POINT PLATFORM RELEASED AT OPENING PUBLIC SESSION OF CONFERENCE. ALTHOUGH THESE PRINCIPLES REPORTEDLY NOT SUBMITTED FOR FORMAL CONFERENCE APPROVAL, NIGERIAN CHAIRMAN OF CONFERENCE, TRADE COMMISSIONER BRIGGS, SAID CONFIDENTLY PUBLICLY THAT THEY REPRESENTED CONSENSUS OF CONFERENCE ATTENDEES.

4. MY IMPORTANT OF THESE PRINCIPLES ARE: NON-RECIPROCITY FOR COMMERCIAL AND TRAFFIC CONCESSIONS BY EEC; NON-DISCRIMINATORY EXTENSION TO THIRD COUNTRIES OF "RIGHT OF ESTABLISHMENT"; REVISION OF RULES OF ORIGIN TO FACILITATE INTRA-AFRICAN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT; REVISION OF PROPOSALS ON PAYMENTS AND CAPITAL MOVEMENTS TO INCREASE AFRICAN "MONEY INDEPENDENCE;" DISASSOCIATION OF ISSUE OF DEVELOPMENT AID FROM ISSUE OF THE FORM OF A NATION'S ASSOCIATION WITH EEC; FREE ACCESS TO EEC MARKETS FOR AFRICAN PRODUCTS; GUARANTEES OF STABLE AND REMUNERATIVE PRICES FOR MAIN AFRICAN PRODUCTS; AND NO PREJUDICE TO INTRA-AFRICAN COOPERATION FROM EEC ASSOCIATION.

5. INSTITUTIONAL MACHINERY TO COORDINATE OAU APPROACH TO EEC WOULD REPORTEDLY INCLUDE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

WHICH WOULD MEET PRIOR TO OPENING OF SEPTEMBER NEGOTIATIONS WITH EEC TO REVIEW RESULTS OF BRUSSELS PRELIMINARY MEETING. NIGERIAN CHAIRMAN OF CONFERENCE, BRIGGS, ANNOUNCED TO PRESS THAT HE HAD BEEN NAMED CHAIRMAN OF THIS BODY. BRIGGS ALSO INDICATED AGREEMENT TO FORM COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS, ALTHOUGH MEMBERSHIP AND FUNCTIONS WERE NOT PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED, AND TO FORMATION OF A STANDING COMMITTEE OF AFRICAN AMBASSADORS RESIDENT IN BRUSSELS. WE ARE SEEKING DETAILS OF THESE

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ARRANGEMENTS.

6. CONFERENCE APPROACH TO GATT-SPONSORED TRADE TALKS, WHICH ALL OAU MEMBERS URGED TO ATTEND, ALSO BASED ON GUIDELINES APPROVED AT OAU CHIEFS OF STATE MEETING. CONFERENCE ALSO AVOIDED EFFORT TO REACH FORMAL AGREEMENT ON THESE GUIDELINES IN FAVOR ESTABLISHING CONSENSUS. THESE GUIDELINES ARE: THAT MULTILATERAL TRADE

TALKS BE BASED ON BASIS OF NON-RECIPROCITY OF PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT; INCREASING AFRICA'S SHARE OF WORLD TRADE; MAINTENANCE OF STABLE, REMUNERATIVE PRICE LEVELS; THAT DEVELOPED COUNTRIES MODIFY AGRICULTURAL AND COMMERCIAL POLICIES UNFAVORABLE TO AFRICAN INTERESTS: STOPPING DETERIORATION OF AFRICA'S TERMS OF TRADE: THAT CONCESSIONS GRANTED BY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO LDCS NOT BE EXTENDED TO OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES; REMOVAL OF ALL "MAJOR OBSTACLES" TO THE ENTRY OF AFRICAN EXPORT PRODUCE TO MARKETS OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ; THAT ANY CONCESSIONS GRANTED TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES BECOME EFFECTIVE ON CLOSE OF NEGOTIATIONS: THAT TRADING OF CONCESSIONS TO AFRICA BE IRRESPECTIVE OF AFRICAN NATION'S POSITION IN GATT; ADOPTION OF COMMODITY AGREEMENTS ON AFRICAN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, MINERALS, MANUFACTURES, AND PROCESSED FOODSTUFF.

7. AGREEMENT REPORTEDLY ALSO ATTAINED ON RECOMMENDATION THAT OAU'S ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY GENERAL AND EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF ECA SHOULD PREPARE STUDIES RELEVANT TO OAU'S RELATIONS WITH GATT.

8. THIRD MAIN TOPIC TREATED BY CONFERENCE WAS AFRICAN COMMON MARKET. DESPITE NIGERIAN PRESS REPORTS HERALDING AGREEMENT TO PROCEED TO FORMATION OF COMMON MARKET, CONFERENCE APPARENTLY DID NOT GO BEYOND AGREEMENT THAT SECRETARY GENERAL OF OAU SHOULD SUBMIT PROPOSALS TO NEXT OAU CHIEFS OF STATE MEETING, NOW SCHEDULED FOR MAY 1974.

9. CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF PRINCIPALS STRESS MAINTENANCE OF CONTINUING MOMENTUM TOWARD UNIFIED OAU STANCE BEFORE EEC. WE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DO NOT NOW HAVE HARD INFO ABOUT DISCUSSIONS ON THORNIER ISSUES, IF ANY, INCLUDING PAST FRANCOPHONE INTRANSIGENCE ON REVERSE PREFERENCES AND COMPLEX POSITION OF AFRICAN MEDITERRANEAN STATES WHICH HAVE ALREADY CONCLUDED EEC AGREEMENTS. ADMISSION BY CHAIRMAN BRIGGS THAT GUIDELINES RECEIVED FROM TENTH OAU CHIEFS OF STATE MEETING ON BOTH EEC AND GATT WERE NOT SUBMITTED FOR FORMAL AGREEMENT MAY CONCEAL FISSURES STILL EXISTING IN "UNITED" OAU POSITION VIS-A-VIS EEC. HOWEVER, CONFERENCE DID CARRY FORWARD THEME OF UNITY EMERGING FROM TENTH OAU MEETING AND ABIDJAN TRADE TALKS. TO HAVE EXPECTED MORE FROM A "LAST-MINUTE" CONFERENCE OF THREE DAYS' DURATION MAY HAVE BEEN TOO MUCH.
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